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proper for a man to like a girl before he thinks of marrying her. There now, let that rest. The point at present gentlemen is, who will give most for this damsel now before you. 2d Bid. I will not have her at all, I find she is very proud, whimsical and ill-natured. 1st Bid. Is it so, Mercury, that I can only enjoy her fortune during her life? *Mer.* It is, you will have 6 per cent on 20,000 pounds, for that time. 1st Bid. This alters the case materially. The point now is, how many years' purchase she is worth? I will chance seven years, and deduct 1 per cent on account of her pride and ill-nature. *Mer.* Very well, take her. I wish you much joy; but I fear you will have a good deal of sorrow. 2d Bid. I think the gilding will be off the pill before the honey-moon be over.

A. Z.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

ON reading your Magazine for May last, I was highly pleased in observing in it a paper "on the comparative strength of Barilla and Potash," as it displays a wish to take notice of whatever relates to the good of the country, and particularly to that of its staple manufacture. The following queries, which occurred to me on the perusal, are now offered to your consideration.

1. The writer mentions that 0 indicates the specific gravity of water, at some given temperature, by his hydrometer, without mentioning the temperature: the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, &c. may reasonably be supposed to be gradations, as the figures express: perhaps they are the ounces of alkaline salt soluble in a gallon of water. But is the Barilla or Potash always free from all other soluble matter so that the specific gravity will show its value correctly according to these numbers?

2. Does Barilla part with its salt as freely to water as potash, when both are treated in the same manner; or may it not happen that when both are treated alike, the Barilla has not parted with all its salt, when the Potash has; and may not this occasion an error?

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3. Are Alkalies equally soluble in a mild and caustic state? If not, I should suppose, that this may occasion an error.

4. If alkaline solutions be valuable according to the good effect they have in bleaching, does it always follow that the effect is according to their specific gravities, or not; if not, how can the specific gravities be a true mode of finding the value of alkalies?

5. If alkalies are equally pure in their soluble parts, as in query 1st. and equally yield their salt to water as in query 2nd. and are also equally soluble in their mild and caustic state, as in query 3d. if by rendering them less mild, by depriving them of part of their fixed air after solution, the fluid lose part of its specific gravity, can the hydrometer show their value, unless that in losing part of their specific gravity, their good effect in bleaching is lessened also?

Perhaps some of your Correspondents may answer some of these queries, which may be of use to many, besides yours,

Belfast, July 1, 1809.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,

I HAVE noticed in your Magazine for June last, in the Ramble to Antrim, an erroneous expression of the writer, respecting his fellow-traveller, though without any malignant intention on his part, where he says, "it is said he has studied himself into infidelity; but is reckoned among the best of unbelievers;" from every observation that I could make, and an early acquaintance, I must do the person here alluded to that justice, to assert that he is not an-unbeliever, though he despises the superstition of a bigot, and would sometimes laugh at an old wife's fable. As to the religion of others, it is a question which he wishes to avoid, as he considers, in this country in particular, such discussion, in stead of promoting that love and benevolence so wisely enjoined, but too frequently degenerates into hatred and animosity, which has been too long the great cause of internal discord and political debasement.

H.

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